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HOLSWORTHY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HIGH STREET,

HOLSWORTHY.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1969.

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Medical Officer of Health	-	E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.F., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	-	C.J. Smith, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	-	R.D.J. Fyman, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.R.S.H.



Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Rural District for 1969.

The population for the year, which is an estimated mid-year figure remains the same as for the previous year.

The total number of births showed a slight reduction from 121 to 116. There were three infant deaths under the age of one year; one was due to birth abnormality; one due to birth injury and one due to illness associated with pregnancy. There were two illegitimate births. This compares very favourably with the average figure of eight for England and Wales expressed as a percentage of total live births.

The total number of deaths for the year increased from 107 to 113. There were no deaths in the 1 - 14 years age group. There was one death from road accident in the 15 - 24 years age group; road accidents being one of the commonest causes of death in young adults. Approximately 80% of all deaths were aged 65 and over and the majority of these were due to heart or circulatory diseases.

There was a considerable increase in measles notification for the year - 46 cases as compared with 3 in 1968. It is hoped that this troublesome, but sometimes dangerous disease will disappear as protective immunization against it is available at all Surgery and Health Centre Clinics.

Salmonella infection amongst animals on thirty nine farms were reported by the Annual Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In spite of the prevalence of the organism amongst farm animals no cases of salmonella infection in humans was reported.

No cases of Undulant Fever were reported during the year. The disease is not notifiable, but we are usually informed by the General Practitioners of any case which might arise. Five samples taken from farms were positive for Brucella Abortus. Most of these sold their milk to dairies where pasteurisation was carried out. In one instance the producer had a retail sale and in this case, with the co-operation of the farmer's veterinary surgeon, the infected animals were isolated and disposed of.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

E. Williams

Medical Officer of Health





## STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	97,504
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)	8,340
Number of inhabited houses	3,012
Number of Council Houses owned	408
Density of persons per house	2.7
Rateable Value (at 31st March, 1958)	£152,598
Value of Penny Rate (Actual Year to 31st March, 1959)	£627 8s. 7d.
Area Comparability Factors:- Births	1.16
Deaths	0.83

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births -

Number	116
Rate per 1,000 population	13.9
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	16.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	2

### Stillbirths -

Number	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	9
Total Live and Still Births	117
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	3
Infant Mortality Rates -	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	26
Legit. " " " " Legit. " "	26



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VITAL STATISTICS (Contd.)

Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	NIL
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	17
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	17
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	26
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) -	
Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	NIL
Deaths	113
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	13.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp, Factor	11.2





## BIRTHS

During the year there were 116 live births.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	51	63	114
Illegitimate	1	1	2
			<hr/>
			116

Live birth rate per 1,000 population adjusted 16.1

Birth Rate (England and Wales) 16.3

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			<hr/>
			1

Still birth rate per 1,000 population 9.1

## DEATHS

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
59	54	113

Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted) 11.2

Death rate (England and Wales) 11.9



CAUSE OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	2	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	12
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	8	12
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	6
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	-	1



CAUSES OF DEATH (Contd.)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	3	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1
All Other Accidents	1	-
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-
	<u>59</u>	<u>54</u>





Deaths occurred in the following age groups:-

Under 1 Year	3
1 - 4 years	-
5 - 14 years	-
15 - 24 years	1
25 - 34 years	1
35 - 44 years	2
45 - 54 years	2
55 - 64 years	14
65 - 74 years	28
75 + years	62

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 3 infants died under the age of 1 year.

	Male and Female	
Legitimate	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 26



Cancer Deaths

There were 23 deaths from Cancer during the year.

	Male	Female
Buccal Cavity	1	-
Oesophagus	-	1
Stomach	2	-
Intestine	2	1
Larynx	1	-
Lung Bronchus	5	-
Breast	-	2
Uterus	-	1
Prostate	1	-
Others	3	3
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 8

Infectious Diseases

Measles        46

There was one case of non pulmonary tuberculosis notified.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47 and Amendment Act 1951

This section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons to a County Welfare House. It ~~concerns~~ concerns those who are living alone in insanitary conditions and who are suffering from grave chronic disease and are not receiving proper care and attention from others.

No cases were dealt with under the Section during the year.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC

HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1969.

A notable change took place during the year in the field of refuse disposal when a system of controlled tipping was introduced to replace crude tipping, and open incineration, which had been the means of disposal for many years. The aim was to reduce the various nuisances, which arise from crude disposal by following a recognised procedure normally used for controlling a refuse tip.

Further details regarding refuse collection and disposal are contained in this report.

During August, work in connection with Housing took a significant step forward with the introduction of the Housing Act, 1969. This piece of legislation, designed to deal with some 4,000,000 sub-standard houses and approximately 1.8 million slum dwellings throughout the country, gave Local Authorities the power to pay a Discretionary Grant of up to £1,000 for the improvement of private dwellings to the higher standard. Every advantage of the new grant structure, was taken by this Council to encourage owners to apply for a Discretionary Grant where a particular property was suitable.

The licenced slaughterhouse within the district continued to operate as in previous years with meat inspection being carried out on Saturdays and Sundays as well as during the week. Both the building and facilities fall far short of the regulations appertaining to slaughterhouses and towards the close of the year a directive was made from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food, that the current licence should not be renewed after its date of expiry, unless satisfactory improvements were made. The owner together with this department had for a long time previous to this, been exploring the possibility of a complete new unit for the production of meat, and it was hoped that this would materialise during the forthcoming year.

Throughout the year most of the time available was spent on Housing Meat Inspection and Refuse Control, and it was not possible, with a staff of two, to devote as much attention as would be desired to other duties. The total number of visits made during the year are listed in this report together with all other relevant details of the department.

I extend my gratitude to the Council's Officers and staff for their assistance during the year and in particular to Mr. R.D.J. Pyman, Additional Public Health Inspector, for his support and loyal service.

C. J. SMITH  
Senior Public Health Inspector.



DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

										<u>Visits</u>
Health Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	501
Public Health Act		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Improvement Grants		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	375
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Refuse Collection & Disposal				..	..	..	..	..	..	302
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises				..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Food Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Batchouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Insect Pest and Rodent Control				..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Disease of Animals		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Whisencies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Compulsory Improvement			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Infectious Disease		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Food Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Sewerage Schemes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Civic Amenities Act		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3





## HOUSING

The following is a list of houses provided by the Council:-

### Pre-war:

Holsworthy	-	Forresters Road	17
		Dobles Terrace	6
		Pins Park	8
Milton Damerel	-	Venn Green	2
Chilsworthy	-	Newcourt	2
Bridgerule	-	Littlebridge	2
Fyworthy	-	Derriton Road	2
			<hr/>
			39
			<hr/>

### Post-war:

Holsworthy	-	Pins Park	10
		Glebeland	120
		Stanhope Close	48
Ashwater	-	Manor Park	10
Black Torrington	-	Bowhay	10
Bradford	-	Queens Park	8
Bradworthy	-	Tuckers Park & Westcroft	28
Bridgerule	-	Bridgepark	20
Clawton	-	Claw Park	14
Halwill	-	Holywell Park	12
		Fir Park	2
		Woodlands	6
Chilsworthy	-	Quarry Park	4
Milton Damerel	-	Venn Green	4
		Beech Park	14
Fyworthy	-	Derriton Road	12
		Shortlands	10
Sutcombe	-	Square Park	7
Tetcott	-	Lana Park	4
Thornbury	-	Dennis Close	4
West Putford	-	Sessacott	2
			<hr/>
			349
			<hr/>

Plus Houses taken over from Broadwoodwidge R.D.C.

Jays Cross	-	St. Giles	2
Finslow Cross	-	St. Giles	4
Tor View	-	Woodley Park	4
Ivy House	-	Broadwoodwidge	2
East Panson	-	St. Giles	2
Sharon Park	-	Virginstow	2
South View	-	Box's Shop	2
Moor View	-	Tredown	2
			<hr/>
			20
			<hr/>





## HOUSING (contd.)

Inspections made under the Housing Act, 1957 resulted in Closing Orders being made in respect of 2 properties.

A further 8 properties were brought up to standard by informal action and the owners took advantage of the Standard Grant Scheme to include all the required facilities.

Houses completed during the year were:-

- a. By the Rural District Council - 8
- b. By Private Enterprise - 20

Number on list at end of 1969 after transfer of new tenancies and removal from list of persons having left the district - 38.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Approval for Standard Grant was given for 40 applications submitted, all of which were for improvement to the full standard. In the majority of cases the provision of a septic tank and/or bathroom extension was included. A total of £8,678 was paid in respect of 42 dwellings completed.

Seven applications for Discretionary Grant were received during the year and payment for 5 dwellings completed amounted to £1,502.

During the last three months of the year numerous enquiries were made regarding Discretionary Grants, following the introduction of The Housing Act, 1969, which fixed a new maximum of £1,000. Most of the applications made, came within this new scheme although none of the properties concerned were completed within the period under review.



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

All of the throughput of meat at the only slaughterhouse remaining in the district was inspected by the Department. This involved visits on both Saturdays and Sundays during most weekends in the year. It was not possible for an Inspector to be present whilst slaughtering was carried out as no control over the hours of slaughter have been made by the Council. However, a system operates whereby the carcasses are readily identifiable with the plucks.

Reference has already been made in the introduction to this report, regarding the slaughterhouse, which is below the requirements of regulations made under the Slaughterhouses Act 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals Act 1958, and the fact that it is no longer suitable for the production of meat units present state. A modern slaughtering unit is essential to this district not only because more hygienic premises are desirable, but also to compete in an industry that is mainly comprised of larger units, which are entering more and more into the export field.

The countries to which export meat is sent demands quite high standards as regards slaughtering facilities, and the possibility of Holsworthy District entering this market in the future should not be overlooked.

Details of the number of animals slaughtered and the parts or organs condemned are given in the table on the following page.

$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$

1. Definition  
 2. Classification  
 3. Causes  
 4. Pathogenesis  
 5. Pathology  
 6. Diagnosis  
 7. Prognosis  
 8. Treatment



DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND PARTS CONDEMNED

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	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
Number Killed	70	Nil	66	17753	9138	27027
Number Inspected	70	Nil	66	17753	9138	27027

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ALL DISEASES EXCEPT  
TUBERCULOSIS AND  
CYSTICERCI

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	17	72	15	
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	32	Nil	6	1237	828	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	45.70	Nil	34.85	7.37	9.22	

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TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	125	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.37	

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CYSTICERCOSIS

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of Bovines inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

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CONTENTS		ORIGINAL ARTICLES		DEPARTMENTS	
1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012
1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018
1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024

1025	1026	1027
1028	1029	1030
1031	1032	1033
1034	1035	1036
1037	1038	1039
1040	1041	1042
1043	1044	1045
1046	1047	1048
1049	1050	1051
1052	1053	1054
1055	1056	1057
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1061	1062	1063
1064	1065	1066
1067	1068	1069
1070	1071	1072
1073	1074	1075
1076	1077	1078
1079	1080	1081
1082	1083	1084
1085	1086	1087
1088	1089	1090
1091	1092	1093
1094	1095	1096
1097	1098	1099
1100	1101	1102
1103	1104	1105
1106	1107	1108
1109	1110	1111
1112	1113	1114
1115	1116	1117
1118	1119	1120
1121	1122	1123
1124	1125	1126
1127	1128	1129
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1163	1164	1165
1166	1167	1168
1169	1170	1171
1172	1173	1174
1175	1176	1177
1178	1179	1180
1181	1182	1183
1184	1185	1186
1187	1188	1189
1190	1191	1192
1193	1194	1195
1196	1197	1198
1199	1200	1201
1202	1203	1204
1205	1206	1207
1208	1209	1210
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1217	1218	1219
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1232	1233	1234
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1244	1245	1246
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1253	1254	1255
1256	1257	1258
1259	1260	1261
1262	1263	1264
1265	1266	1267
1268	1269	1270
1271	1272	1273
1274	1275	1276
1277	1278	1279
1280	1281	1282
1283	1284	1285
1286	1287	1288
1289	1290	1291
1292	1293	1294
1295	1296	1297
1298	1299	1300
1301	1302	1303
1304	1305	1306
1307	1308	1309
1310	1311	1312
1313	1314	1315
1316	1317	1318
1319	1320	1321
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1355	1356	1357
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1361	1362	1363
1364	1365	1366
1367	1368	1369
1370	1371	1372
1373	1374	1375
1376	1377	1378
1379	1380	1381
1382	1383	1384
1385	1386	1387
1388	1389	1390
1391	1392	1393
1394	1395	1396
1397	1398	1399
1400	1401	1402
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1412	1413	1414
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1421	1422	1423
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1427	1428	1429
1430	1431	1432
1433	1434	1435
1436	1437	



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

This duty is the responsibility of the Council's Surveyor in conjunction with Consulting Civil Engineers.

A scheme to deal with sewerage from a newly developed industrial estate was the only system to be drawn up and installed during the year. This project was designed and supervised by the Surveyor and his staff.

Various other schemes from Consulting Engineers were still in the course of preparation or waiting for approval from the Ministry. Towards the end of the year a preliminary survey was begun by Consultants for a comprehensive scheme to deal with sewage from Holsworthy town.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The system devised during the previous year for the collection of refuse continued to operate and a weekly collection was maintained in all of the parish centres and approximately 95% of the country districts. Two vehicles are used for this service, one an 18/25 cu. yd. fore & aft tipper with compression plate used full time, and the second a 7 cu.yd. side loader used part time.

Investigations were carried out during the early part of the year into the best method of disposal, which could be adopted to replace open incineration. Three systems were given consideration these being (1) Controlled Tipping, (2) Pulverisation and (3) Incineration. The latter was ruled out as being the most uneconomical to deal with refuse from a population of around 3,500. This left a choice between numbers (1) and (2). A report was prepared setting out the comparison of costs from a long term point of view, between the two systems. Based on a period of 25 years the figures showed surprisingly little difference between controlled tipping and pulverisation for the disposal of a constant volume of refuse during that period. The cost per ton was calculated to be £1.0.3 for controlled tipping and £1.3.0 for pulverisation. No allowance was made for either the purchase of additional sites in due course for controlled tipping, or for covering material for pulverised refuse. After consultation with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and much consideration by this Council it was decided to embark on a method of controlled tipping as the total amount of refuse collected was estimated at only 32 tons per week. At the end of the year this had increased to almost 50 tons per week.





## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (contd)

Investigations were then carried out into the various types of machines available for satisfactorily controlling a refuse tip and a decision was made by the Council in favour of a four wheel drive loading shovel with a bucket capacity of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cu. yds. This machine was obtained and put into use during June and its first major task was to level down the old refuse that had been deposited and burned. Difficulties were encountered, particularly during winter months, with waterlogged ground as the site used for disposal was originally a reservoir and numerous inlets conveying surface water had to be piped away under the refuse.

Waste paper became an increasing problem due to the rise in volume, but this was in line with the national trend. As more and more items are being pre packed before sale, this increase is inevitable. At the close of the year an outlet for waste paper was obtained, which gave a small income to the Council with very little expense being incurred.

## WATER SUPPLIES

A mains supply of water is available to the majority of the district being supplied by the North Devon Water Board.

Certain isolated properties are still dependant on a well supply and samples are taken for bacteriological analysis on behalf of the occupier whenever the opportunity arises. Invariably the results obtained are very poor and advice to improve the source is given, whenever necessary.

## RODENT CONTROL

Periodical baiting and treatment of sewers and refuse tips is undertaken by the Council but no service to the general public is available as the Council do not employ a Rodent Operator.

## PETROLEUM LICENCES

56 premises are licenced to store petroleum spirit. The revenue to this Council from fees paid during the year amounted to £122.

Information obtained from licence holders during the year revealed that a considerable number of storage tanks had been in use for 20 years or more.

It is a licence condition that tanks of this age be subjected to an internal pressure test using Nitrogen gas. This requirement was brought to the attention of the licence holders concerned so that they could arrange for the necessary tests to be carried out before the next renewal date.





OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the close of the year the number of premises registered under the Act was 84. No premises were newly registered during this period.

The following tables show the position regarding premises covered by the Act.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of registered premises at the end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	38	Nil
Retail Shops	37	Nil
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	5	Nil
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	4	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	84	Nil



FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Number of				
(i) Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,5, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	36	1	-	-
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	36	1	-	-





